

## Bulletproof – “The Making of an Invincible Mind”

### Lesson #1 – Becoming a Spirit Warrior



It is the start of a new year and with a new year brings resolutions and promises that some intend to keep while others simply state them without much desire to see them fulfilled. Cicero Christian has promises and resolutions as well and we desire for these resolutions to come to fruition because the health of our church, families, and the lives of every spiritual leader in our congregation depend upon the success of these resolutions.

- *What are some of the New Year's resolutions that you have made either this year or in past years?*
- *What is the usual outcome of the majority of the resolutions that are made by our society as a whole? Explain why this is the case.*

One of the top priorities for Cicero Christian Church in 2007 is to improve, not impede, our Men's Ministry. Our desire is to see the men of this church step confidently into their role as the spiritual leaders of their families, communities, and their churches.

- *What are some areas or ways in which you would desire for Cicero Christian Church to improve its Men's Ministry?*

One of the most important ways that we want to equip all of you during 2007 is to spiritually equip you with tools that you can practically use to improve your relationship with God, your family, and your church.

We start out this year by focusing our attention on helping each man discover how to make his mind invincible. This series will encourage you to arm yourself with the proper tools needed to defeat and overcome the obstacles and pitfalls that the enemy places before you in your life.

### ***Step #1 – Recognize Your Enemy***

The first step on your journey to making your mind invincible comes to us as we take in our surroundings and consider the opposition that is all around us. We must keep our eyes wide open and be as shrewd as a snake.

- *Who is our enemy in this world? How do we know this?*

**1 John 2:20-22** – But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth. Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist—he denies the Father and the Son.

**1 Peter 5:8** – Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

## **Step #2 – Count the Cost**

The second step in making your mind invincible is taking into account the cost of doing battle with our enemy. If we are going to enter into battle then we must understand what the expectations will be of our Commander as well as the risks of engaging in this battle.

**Luke 14:28-33** – "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'

"Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.

- *Why is it important to consider the costs associated with battle before entering into battle?*
- *What are the costs of engaging in warfare with the enemy?*
- *What are the costs of following Jesus Christ as one of His disciples?*
  - *Who has already won the battle? What does this mean?*

## **Step #3 – Prepare for Battle**

The third step in making your mind invincible is preparing yourself for the battle of a lifetime. We have already taken the time to recognize the enemy and to consider the costs associated with this battle and now we must prepare ourselves by asking ourselves a few basic questions.

- *How does the enemy attack us as “Men of God?”*
- *What are some weaknesses that most “Men of God” should be made aware of?*
- *How do we defend ourselves against our enemy?*

**2 Corinthians 10:3-5** – For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. *We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*

Most “Men of God” desire to grow in their faith and become stronger Christian men. They desire to become the spiritual leaders of their household but they need some practical tools to help them in this process. Here is a five step process with handouts to help you get started for 2007.

### **Tool #1 – Read the Bible**

- **2 Timothy 3:16-17** – All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- Reading the Bible will help you come to a better understanding of the will of God for your life but most importantly it will strengthen your relationship with Him as you come to know Him more intimately.

### **Tool #2 – Pray to God**

- **Ephesians 6:18** – And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.
- Praying to God will help you connect with God at a one-on-one level in which He will speak into your life, guiding and directing you down the path that you should go.

### **Tool #3 – Memorize the Word of God**

- **Romans 12:2** – Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.
- Memorizing the Word of God will help you defend yourself against Satan in the everyday obstacles and temptations that come your way. It will be as if God is speaking directly to you through His Word when faced with trials.

### **Tool #4 – Enter into Discipleship**

- **Matthew 28:19-20** – Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.
- Discipleship will allow you to learn from those that are more mature in their faith. It will help you avoid pitfalls that others have already gone through. It will also provide accountability.

### **Tool #5 – Trust and Obey**

- **Proverbs 3:5-6** – Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.
- Learn to hear and know the voice of God. This is the only way to experience true success and victory in life.

“God, I pray Thee, light these idle sticks of my life and may I burn up for Thee. Consume my life, my God, for it is Thine. I seek not a long life, but a full one, like you, Lord Jesus.” – **Jim Elliot**

### ***Men's Breakfast Weekly Memory Verse***

**1 Peter 5:8** – *Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*

## ***Future Bulletproof Lessons***

January 12, 2007 – *Overcoming the Spirit of Fear*

- Matthew 10:26-31

January 19, 2007 – *Rethinking the Risk*

- Luke 14:25-35

January 26, 2007 – *Embracing the Spirit of Power and Love*

- 2 Timothy 1:7 – For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.
- John 15:13 – Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

February 02, 2007 – *Embracing the Spirit of Self-Discipline*

- 1 Corinthians 9:25-27

February 09, 2007 – *Becoming the Elite Soldier*

- Several Passages from 2 Timothy



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